

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2-9, 11-12, 24-27, 29-30, 35-52 are pending in the application, with claims 25, 35 and 39 being the independent claims. No claims are sought to be cancelled. New claims 47-52 are added. Claim 35 is amended herein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 2, 5-9, 11, 12, 35 and 42-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,068,981 to Jung ("Jung") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,999,932 to Grim ("Grim").

Independent claim 35 has been amended to recite "said sidewall includes a portion comprising a plurality of stepped ridges increasingly protruding from said top wall to said bottom wall" and further to recite "said bottom wall is closer to said ground contacting surface of said shoe sole than said top wall."

The art of record does not disclose the container as claimed. Instead, Jung appears to disclose inner casing 1 including a first circumferential raised portion 3 and a second circumferential raised portion 4 that protrudes outward from a "top wall" of chamber body 14 but then recedes again towards a "bottom wall" of chamber body 14, as illustrated in FIGs. 4(A) and 4(B). See also col. 3, lines 6-10. Thus, Jung does not

disclose a sidewall having a portion increasingly protruding from a top wall to a bottom wall. Grim also does not teach a container as claimed.

Dependent claims 2, 5-9, 11, 12 and 42-45 and new claims 47-52 depend from and add further features to independent claim 35 and are thus patentable for at least the same reason as claim 35.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection.

***Allowed claims***

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 25-27, 29-30, 39-40, 41 and 46.

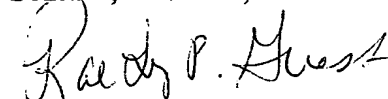
***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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